

# How NIDRR Could Contribute to Bridging Aging and Disability Research

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# NIDRR's Mission



- ▶ To generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use to improve the abilities of individuals with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community; and
- ▶ To expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for its citizens with disabilities.

# Scope of NIDRR Mandate

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## ▶ *Cross-Disability Work:*

- ▶ Physical and mobility impairments;
- ▶ Sensory impairments;
- ▶ Cognitive impairments;
- ▶ Psychiatric disability

## ▶ *Cross-Lifespan Work:*

- ▶ Children, youth, and families;
- ▶ Working-age adults; and
- ▶ Individuals ***aging with*** lifelong and early-onset disabilities, and those ***aging into*** disability in mid- to later life.

# NIDRR's Core Outcome Areas



- ▶ Employment Outcomes
- ▶ Community Living and Participation
- ▶ Health and Function
- ▶ Cross-Cutting Areas
  - Technology/Engineering
  - Disability Statistics

# Number and percentage of research projects, by domain: 2011

Domain	2011	
	N	%
Health and function	179	24.2
Employment	149	20.1
Participation and community living	84	11.3
Technology	24	3.2
Demographics	8	1.1
Knowledge translation	14	1.9
Cross-cutting	283	38.2
Total	741	100

# NIDRR Grant Mechanisms



- ▶ Regulatory Priorities—Typically Published Every Year on Regular Schedule
  - ▶ Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
  - ▶ Field-Initiated Projects (Research and Development) (FIP)
  - ▶ Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training (ARRT)
  - ▶ Switzer Fellowships

# NIDRR Grant Mechanisms



- ▶ Agency-Directed Priorities—Published as Approved by Director and OMB
  - ▶ Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers (RRTC)
  - ▶ Rehabilitation Engineering Research Centers (RERC)
  - ▶ Model Systems (MS) in Spinal Cord, TB, and Burn Injury
  - ▶ Disability Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP)
  - ▶ Knowledge Translation (KT) Centers
  - ▶ *ADA* National Network Regional Centers (ADA-DBTAC)



# NIDRR's Proposed Long Range Plan

## ▶ Balance

- ▶ Employment, Community, Health/Functioning
- ▶ Disability Type (Psychiatric, Developmental, Physical, Sensory)
- ▶ NIDRR-Directed vs. Field-Initiated Priorities

## ▶ Relevance

- ▶ Establishing Rehabilitation Research Advisory Council
- ▶ Increasing opportunities for stakeholder input into Agency activities
- ▶ Increasing emphasis of relevance in review scoring

## ▶ Quality

- ▶ Increased peer review pool
- ▶ Improve priority development and clearance process

# NIDRR's Proposed Field-Initiated Grant-Making Process



- ▶ Organize around NIDRR's three domains
  - ▶ Employment
  - ▶ Health and function
  - ▶ Community participation
- ▶ Foster interventions development by requiring applicants to articulate and justify the research stage being proposed.

# NIDRR Proposed Long Range Plan



- ▶ Link to Federal Register notice of Proposed Long Range Plan:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-18/html/2012-9365.htm>

# History of NIDRR's Investments in 'Aging with Disability'

- ▶ **Total number of grants funded since 1987 across all program mechanisms based on the content of title, abstract, and/or key words = 134 (16 current)**
- ▶ 77 grants on 'aging' (9 current)
- ▶ 21 grants on 'older adults' (2 current)
- ▶ 31 grants on 'aging with disability' (4 current)
- ▶ 5 grants on 'aging and secondary conditions' (1 current)

# Possible Strategies to Continue the Momentum



- ▶ Demonstrate NIDRR's interest in funding research in aging, disability and technology through use of invitational and absolute priorities on these topics in FY 13 and beyond
- ▶ Continued examination of issues in forums like the Interagency Committee on Disability Research (ICDR)
- ▶ Participation in IOM Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence
- ▶ Joint agency funding of cross-cutting initiatives on disability, aging, and technology

# Examples of Successful NIDRR Interagency Collaboration

- ▶ TBI Rehabilitation--Multiple IAAs and MOUs with DOD, VA, CDC and others related to development of common data elements, provide data on civilian populations, support data collection in polytrauma centers, support and expertise related to long-term outcomes, develop treatment guidelines.
- ▶ Research on Recovery for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness and related conditions—30 years of collaboration with SAMSHA and joint funding of major centers conducting research and providing training and technical assistance for both adults and children and families.

# Challenges



- ▶ **Fiscal and political environment**—calls for creativity and thinking outside the box.
- ▶ **Methodological challenges** inherent in conducting community-based research across populations—calls for re-invigorating our use of rigorous quasi-experimental, observational, and other methods including analysis of administrative data without losing focus on when to employ tools such as RCTs to demonstrate efficacy where we can.
- ▶ Need for **translational research** as well as **knowledge translation** to both ensure that research findings reach the intended users and to demonstrate that research is a sound investment in a world of competing investments.

# Grants Forecast



- ▶ For a listing of all discretionary grant funding opportunities for the fiscal year, click on: <http://www2.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/nidrr/index.html>



# Information on NIDRR Projects and Products

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- ▶ National Rehabilitation Information Center
  - ▶ <http://nadic.com>
  - ▶ *News and Notes from NIDRR*